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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/091,724	03/06/2002	Samy Ashkar	CMCC 820	6946

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EXAMINER

MYERS, CARLA J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1634

DATE MAILED: 10/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/091,724

**Applicant(s)**

ASHKAR, SAMY

**Examiner**

Carla Myers

**Art Unit**

1634

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.                                    |

***Election/Restrictions***

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-23, drawn to methods for identifying minicell hosts comprising the steps of expressing a fusion protein in a minicell, contacting the minicell with a binding partner, and identifying minicell hosts bound to the binding partner, classified in class 435, subclass 7.2.
- II. Claims 24-30, drawn to methods for increasing the diversity of a minicell DNA library comprising mutating the cells in the minicell DNA library, classified in class 435, subclass 440.
- III. Claims 31-35, drawn to methods of screening a minicell library wherein the method comprises contacting a library with an immobilized target and separating bound members from unbound members to enrich for DNA encoding a peptide binding the target, classified in Class 435, subclasses 6 and 7.1.
- IV. Claims 36-41, drawn to vectors comprising an inducible promoter, classified in Class 435, subclass 320.1.
- V. Claims 42-43, drawn to a method for making a minicell library using random primers, classified in Class 435, subclass 91.1.
- VI. Claim 44, drawn to a method of purifying minicells by density gradient ultracentrifugation, classified in Class 435, subclasses 4 and 261.

2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

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Inventions I, II, III, V and VI are drawn to patentably distinct inventions. Each invention is drawn to a distinct method which involves the use of different reagents and involves performing different method steps and has different objectives. In particular, the method of invention I requires the use of a minicell host cell and a binding partner, involves expressing a fusion protein a minicell host and contacting a minicell host with a binding partner in order to accomplish the objective of identifying a minicell host bound to a binding partner. The method of invention II requires the use of a DNA library and mutagenic agents, comprises the step of mutating cells in a minicell DNA library in order to accomplish the objective of increasing the diversity of a minicell DNA library. The method of invention III requires the use of a minicell DNA library and an immobilized target and requires performing method steps in which members of the library are bound to an immobilized target in order to accomplish the objective of producing a library enriched in a peptide that binds a target. The method of invention V involves the use of random single stranded primers and involves performing primer extension reactions to generate single stranded regions of concatamers that are converted to double-stranded sequences to achieve the objective of making a minicell library. The method of invention VI requires the use of a gradient made of a linear sucrose gradient and requires performing density gradient ultra-centrifugation to achieve the objective of purifying minicells. The methods of inventions I, II, III, V and VI are novel and unobvious over each other.

Inventions I and IV are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the

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process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (M.P.E.P. § 806.05(h)). In the instant case, the vectors of invention IV can be used in a materially different process, such as for any general method for synthesizing nucleic acids or proteins.

Inventions II and IV, III and IV, V and IV and VI and IV are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case, the different inventions are not disclosed as capable of use together because the particular vectors of invention IV are not required to practice the methods of invention II, III, V or VI.

3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a different status in the art as demonstrated by their different classification and recognized divergent subject matter and because inventions I-IV require different searches that are not co-extensive, examination of these distinct inventions would pose a serious burden on the examiner and therefore restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 821.04. **Process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product** will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance, whichever is earlier. Amendments submitted after final rejection are governed by 37 CFR 1.116; amendments submitted after allowance are governed by 37 CFR 1.312.

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In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103, and 112. Until an elected product claim is found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowed product claim will not be rejoined. See "Guidance on Treatment of Product and Process Claims in light of *In re Ochiai*, *In re Brouwer* and 35 U.S.C. § 103(b)," 1184 O.G. 86 (March 26, 1996). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, Applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution either to maintain dependency on the product claims or to otherwise include the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.** Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

5. Further, should Applicants elect invention I, this group is subject to an additional restriction requirement as follows.

Claims 1-23 are subject to an additional restriction since these claims are not considered to recite a proper genus/Markush group.

Specifically, claims 19-22 claim distinct peptide sequences comprising the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 8-13, 17, 18, 21-34, 37-42, and 45-53. Each of these peptides consists of a distinct amino acid sequence, has a different isoelectric point, and a different molecular weight. Additionally, each peptide binds to a different ligand and has a different biological function. Given the differences in structure and function, the Markush group set forth in claims 19-22 is not considered to constitute a proper genus, and therefore is subject to a further restriction requirement. A sequence search and non-patent literature search of these sequences would not be co-extensive with one another. For example, a search for SEQ ID NO: 8 would not be coextensive with a search of SEQ ID NO: 40. Accordingly, a search of more than one of the sequences as

claimed in claims 19-22 presents an undue burden on the Patent and Trademark Office due to the complex nature of the search and the corresponding examination of more than one of the claimed sequences. Accordingly, Applicants are required to elect one (1) sequence from the sequences of SEQ ID NO: 8-13, 17, 18, 21-34, 37-42, and 45-53. Note that this is not a species election.

Claims 1-18 and 23 link the individual sequences of claims 19-22, each sequencing comprising a distinct invention as outlined above. The restriction requirement between the linked inventions is subject to the nonallowance of the linking claim(s). Upon the allowance of the linking claim(s), the restriction requirement as to the linked inventions shall be withdrawn and any claim(s) depending from or otherwise including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) will be entitled to examination in the instant application. Applicant(s) are advised that if any such claim(s) depending from or including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) is/are presented in a continuation or divisional application, the claims of the continuation or divisional application may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Where a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. *In re Ziegler*, 44 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.0

6. Applicant is advised that the response to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed.

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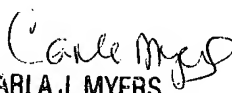
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carla Myers whose telephone number is (571) 272-0747. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 6:30 AM-5:00 PM. A message may be left on the examiner's voice mail service. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion, can be reached on (571)-272-0782.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to (571) 272-0547.

Patent applicants with problems or questions regarding electronic images that can be viewed in the Patent Application Information Retrieval system (PAIR) can now contact the USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center (Patent EBC) for assistance. Representatives are available to answer your questions daily from 6 am to midnight (EST). The toll free number is (866) 217-9197. When calling please have your application serial or patent number, the type of document you are having an image problem with, the number of pages and the specific nature of the problem. The Patent Electronic Business Center will notify applicants of the resolution of the problem within 5-7 business days. Applicants can also check PAIR to confirm that the problem has been corrected. The USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center is a complete service center supporting all patent business on the Internet. The USPTO's PAIR system provides Internet-based access to patent application status and history information. It also enables applicants to view the scanned images of their own application file folder(s) as well as general patent information available to the public.

For all other customer support, please call the USPTO Call Center (UCC) at 800-786-9199.

Carla Myers  
September 29, 2004

  
CARLA J. MYERS  
PRIMARY EXAMINER